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Letter dated 30 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 29 October 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 29 October 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot delegate during the meeting of the Second Committee on 16 October 1996. This statement contains all too familiar allegations put forward by the Greek Cypriot side which are contrary to the realities of Cyprus. In view of the absence of any Turkish Cypriot delegate at the said meeting owing to the usurpation and continued monopolization of the title of "Government of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot side since 1963, I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing in order to set the record straight.

In his statement, the Greek Cypriot delegate attempted to absolve the Greek Cypriot side of the exclusive responsibility for the existing division of the island by describing the legitimate military presence of a guarantor power as an "occupation". In fact, the only occupation in Cyprus is the 33-year-old usurpation and occupation of the seat of Government of the once bi-communal Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side.

It will be recalled that the 11-year-long systematic ethnic cleansing campaign directed by the Greek Cypriots against the Turkish Cypriot people since the early 1960s had culminated in the Greek coup d'état of 15 July 1974, which had made the union of Cyprus with Greece (Enosis) imminent. The "Greek invasion of Cyprus", as it was described by the Greek Cypriot side's own leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 (see S/PV.1780), was thwarted by the timely intervention of Turkey, which was in accordance with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee. Turkey's legitimate intervention brought an end to the systematic human rights violations by the Greek Cypriots and saved the Turkish Cypriot people from total annihilation at the hands of the joint Greek and Greek Cypriot forces. It was, therefore, a rescue operation, which brought peace to Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot delegate's remarks concerning the economic situation in Northern Cyprus, on the other hand, are the epitome of hypocrisy. If the Turkish Cypriot economy is experiencing difficulties, these are the direct result of the all-out inhuman embargo being applied by the Greek Cypriot side against the Turkish Cypriot people since December 1963. The Greek Cypriot side cannot wage economic warfare against the Turkish Cypriot people, on the one hand, and pretend to be concerned about the economic conditions in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on the other.

A case in point is the Greek Cypriot blockade of the Ledra Palace crossing point in Lefkoşa (Nicosia) last weekend barring foreign tourists from crossing into Northern Cyprus. This action, as announced by the organizers, was aimed at tightening the restrictions on freedom of travel to the North with a view to preventing the revenues from tourists "feeding the economy of the North". According to the Greek Cypriot press of 22 October 1996, one of the organizers of the blockade, Mr. Marios Matsakis, who is a member of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives, expressed his jubilation at the "success" of the blockade

and claimed that the North was now "10,000 Cyprus pounds poorer and will be even poorer with each passing weekend". Plans are under way to continue the blockade and even expand it to cover weekdays.

The leading role played by Greek Cypriot politicians in organizing this event, with the support of the Greek Orthodox Church and the notorious motorcycle club, as well as their manifest aim of the economic strangulation of the Turkish Cypriot people, are facts that speak for themselves. These unfriendly actions and declarations hamper prospects for the creation of trust and confidence between the two communities, as well as those for an overall political settlement.

I, therefore, call on the Greek Cypriot side to desist from such harmful activity, and abandon its overall policy of bringing about the economic ruination of the Turkish Cypriot people, in the interest of better relations between the two communities and a just and lasting settlement. In this spirit, I strongly protest the aforementioned remarks made by the Greek Cypriot delegate in the Second Committee as yet another manifestation of ill intent, insincerity and intransigence on the part of the Greek Cypriot side.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus